1. PROBLEMS
Much of the web is comprised of forum structured discussion or asynchronous threaded conversations.

The form of the interfaces to these forums can drown out interesting or expert opinions, as well as larger group trends.

Prior forum exploration tools generally don’t scale to larger conversations and typically aren’t available in an online/real-time manner.

2. FEATURES
Our work modifies HackerNews through a Chrome extension that reorganizes the comment structure of threads into graphical trees.

Our key contribution is a Forested tree view that facilitates exploration of larger conversations (see below).

We offer conversation summaries via LDA topic modeling (hosted in the cloud), the ability zoom into subtrees, and exploration via free text search.

3. RESULTS
Our work scales well and stays responsive on even the largest HackerNews threads.

With our online implementation we are in a good place to conduct a field study which would help determine the real-world utility of this class of tool.

The layout techniques from this work could applied to other tree based displays (such as the scholarship graph) or mobile contexts.